

Home Bible Groups Bible Study

From Fear To Faith: The Journey To The Cross

Lesson 4: Are You A Child Or A Bride: Moving From Milk To Meat

Anchor Scripture:

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”
2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

Weekly Memory Verse:

“I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.” 2 Corinthians 11:2

Focus Scriptures:

“Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” **(Hebrews 5:13-14)**

“Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity...” **(Hebrews 6:1a)**

Supplemental Scriptures: Daily Reading Assignments

Day 1: John 17

Day 2: Ezekiel 16:1-13

Day 3: Ephesians 5,

Day 4: Hebrews chapter 5, Hebrews chapter 6

Day 5: 1 John 4

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Lesson 4: Are You A Child Or A Bride: Moving From Milk To Meat

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Outline:

1. Introduction:

*  **Scripture: Ephesians 1:4a :**

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”

-  : “Jesus makes it clear that He wants to be _____ us.”

*  **Scripture: John 17:24 :**

“Father, I want those you have _____ me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

- Our relationship with God starts as a _____ – _____ relationship. As children of God, it is the fear of _____ which keeps us in obedience to our Father. This fear is a safeguard for us, as it prevents us from going down the path which leads to death, which is _____.

- The Bible also tells us that God wants us to _____ in our love.

 **Scripture: I John 4:18:**

“There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection].”

-  : “When we start out our relationship with God as little _____, it's appropriate for us to act like babies.
- Like physical babies, spiritual babies are concerned with being ministered *to*, *e.g.* :
 1. How do *I* get saved, how do *I* get my _____ to heaven?
 2. How do *I* avoid the punishment (hell)?
 3. How do *I* get my healing?
- So, in the beginning of this parent-child relationship with God, who is the giver? _____
Who is the taker? _____
-  : “A father-child relationship is very _____ and beautiful. But there's something else that God is wanting with us as well. The relationship that He has _____ us for— the relationship we are going to have with His Son, Jesus-- is that of a _____ and a _____. That is the relationship that He is _____ us toward.
 - So, when God starts with us as a little _____, He has an end-goal in mind.

2. Coming of Age:

*📖 **Scripture: Ezekiel 16:4-8:**

“On the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to make you clean, nor were you rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloths. No one looked on you with pity or had compassion enough to do any of these things for you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for on the day you were born you were despised.

Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, 'Live!' I made you grow like a plant of the field. You grew up and developed and became the most beautiful of jewels. Your breasts were formed and your hair grew, you who were naked and bare. Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine.”

- In this story about God's love for His people, God portrays Himself as a man who finds an abandoned baby girl in the weeds, upon whom He has compassion. He rescues her, gives her life, and when she is grown, enters into a _____ with her.
 - 📖 : When God says, 'I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you,' that's talking about the covenant of _____.
-

I. When God found us, we had to be rescued.

*📖 **Scripture: Colossians 1:13:**

“For he has _____ us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the _____ he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

II. When God rescued us, we were children.

*📖 **Scripture: I John 3:2a:**

“Dear friends, now we are _____ of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.”

III. When God found us, we were not valued by the world.

*📖 **Scripture: I Corinthians 1:26-29:**

“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by _____ standards; not many were influential; not many were of _____ birth. But God chose the _____ things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the _____ things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the _____ things of this world and the _____ things-- and the things that _____ -- to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.”

IV. When God looked at us, we were like that baby abandoned in the weeds. But God did not see us as the world did. He saw all of the potential resident inside of us, and called that potential into being by giving us life.

*📖 **Scripture: Romans 4:17:b**

“[Abraham] is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that _____ as though they were.”

- 📖 : When God looked at you, he saw all of His dreams come true. He saw more than the potential of a father-_____ relationship. He looked at you, and He saw His future _____.

*📖 **Scripture: 2 Corinthians 11:2:**

“I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one _____, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure _____ to him.”

V. We see through these scriptures that God meets us where we are-- kicking in our blood in the weeds –and says to us, “Live!”

***📖 Scripture: Romans 5:6:**

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still _____, Christ died for the ungodly...Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!For if, when we were God's enemies, we were _____ to him through the death of his Son, how much _____, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”

***📖 Scripture: Colossians 1:21-22:**

“Once you were alienated from God and were _____ in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you _____ in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation...”

VI. We also see that though God meets us where we are, His goal is that we would join Him where He is-- in His holiness and maturity.

***📖 Scripture: John 17:24 :**

“Father, I want those you have given me to be _____ me _____ I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

***📖 Scripture: Matthew 5:48 (AMP):**

“You, therefore, must be perfect [growing into complete _____ of _____ in mind and character, having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity], as your heavenly Father is _____.”

***📖 Scripture: I John 3:2:**

“Dear friends, now we are _____ of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be _____ him, for we shall see him as he is.

-  : “We are going to be matured in our love-- the kind of love that casts out all _____ . The kind of love that motivates us beyond just being _____ of the punishment of hell. The kind of love that motivates us by our desire to be _____ with God. That's a _____ love.”

*  **Scripture: Ephesians 3:17b-19:**

“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in _____, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the _____ of _____, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the _____ of all the _____ of God.”

*  **Scripture: I John 4:18b (AMP):**

“...but _____-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full _____ of love [is not yet _____ into love's complete perfection].”

3. Moving From Milk:

 : “God is not mad about the fact that we start as little babies-- we should, that's how He tells us to start. The Bible tells us that if we want to enter the kingdom of heaven, we have to _____ as a little _____. But let's not get stunted in our growth. Let's not get stuck in the _____ teachings-- let's not get stuck on the _____.”

* **Scripture: I Corinthians 3:1-2:**

“Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly-- mere _____ in Christ. I gave you _____, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.”

* **Scripture: Hebrews 5:11-14, 6:1-3:**

“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are _____ to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need _____, not solid _____.! Anyone who lives on _____, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the _____, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the elementary _____ about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so.”

I. Earlier in this chapter of Hebrews (verses 1-10), the author begins by revealing certain information to his original readers about Jesus. Specifically, he begins to teach them about Jesus' role in heaven, His character, and His relationships with the Father and with us-- as well as how Jesus came to be selected and qualified for His high position.

* **Scripture: Hebrews 5:7-9b:**

“During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up _____ and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent _____. Although he was a _____, he learned obedience from what he _____ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him...”

II. In Hebrews 5:11, however, the author makes it clear that they were not yet ready to learn all that he had to teach them, because they were still infants, not yet ready for solid _____.

 : “There is so much about Jesus (in this passage) that the author was excited to share with these readers, but they weren't ready for it yet. Talking about reverent submission-- that's not for _____. Talking about doing something for somebody _____, that's not for babies.”

III. Milk is what satisfies spiritual infants.

- Remember, **infants** are concerned with **being ministered to**. They need answers to questions like:
 1. How do *I* get saved, how do *I* get to heaven?
 2. How do *I* avoid the punishment (hell)?
 3. How do *I* get *my* healing?
- This is why they need to be given milk-- elementary teachings about Christ which satisfy these questions. These are the foundational teachings mentioned in Hebrews 6:1-2, which include:
 1. Repentance from acts that lead to _____,
 2. _____ in God,
 3. Instruction about _____,
 4. The _____ on of hands,
 5. The _____ from the dead, and
 6. Eternal _____.

***Note:** “Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.” (Hebrews 6:13)

VI. Solid food is what satisfies the mature Christian.

- **Mature Christians** are those:
 1. who are acquainted with the teaching about **righteousness**, and
 2. “...whose perceptions are trained by practice to **discern both good and evil.**” (Hebrews 5:14b)

 : “Those who remain in spiritual infant-hood are still in “taking” mode. In our Christian walk, we need to get out of that phase pretty quickly. _____ should not last forever.”

4. Solid Food:

I. Who is solid food for?

* **Scripture: Hebrews 5:14:**

“But solid food is for the _____, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

II. What is solid food?

- Solid food is for the mature, and Jesus is our example of maturity. It is our goal, and God's promise, that we become like Jesus.

* **Scripture: Ephesians 4:15:**

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things _____ up into him who is the _____, that is, Christ.”

 : “You know what _____ food is? It's what Jesus eats-- it's the food that _____ Jesus. And Jesus told us what His food was.”

* **Scripture: John 4:31-32, 34-35:**

“Meanwhile his disciples urged him, 'Rabbi, _____ something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to _____ that you know nothing about.'... 'My _____,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to _____ his _____. Do you not say, “Four months more and then the harvest”? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.’”

 : “Jesus' _____, the thing that drives Him, is not to get His needs ministered to-- it's not _____. His solid food, the thing that drives Him, is His appetite to do His Father's _____. As we mature, He will _____ in us this same _____ -- to do the Father's will.”

-
- **Question:** What drives Jesus to work the harvest for His Father?
(choose one):

- A. Fear of punishment,
- B. His desire to gratify Himself, **or**
- C. His own desire (appetite) to do His Father's will

 : “Jesus loves the Father with a _____ love. He wants to bring us along to a mature love with Him.”

III. Why does Jesus want us to join Him in maturity?

 : “There are intimacies and ecstasies that _____ cannot experience. These things come from shared _____, shared passions-- they come by _____ side by side with somebody.”

1. An infant is not concerned about a parent's needs-- it doesn't even occur to a baby that his parents have needs. His only concern is to get his needs met.
2. As we mature, however, we become more considerate, until finally,
3. We are ready for a mature relationship, in which our primary concern is to minister to the needs of the other person.
4. In the same way, when we come into that mature relationship with God, we become concerned with ministering to His needs.

 : God has needs, He has _____. And His passion is the harvest. It's the souls, the _____ and _____ of the _____. He doesn't want us to be invested only in ourselves. He wants us to join Him in His _____. That's _____ : working side by side.”

5. Joining Jesus:

I. Jesus makes it clear that His desire is not only to work His Father's field, but to work that field together with us.

*📖 Scripture: Matthew 11:29:

“Take my _____ upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

*📖 Scripture: Luke 9:62:

“Jesus replied, 'No one who puts his hand to the _____ and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'”

*📖 Scripture: Galatians 5:1:

“It is for _____ that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a _____ of slavery.”

*📖 Scripture: Matthew 11:30:

“For my yoke is easy and my burden is _____.”

• **According to these scriptures:**

1. Is the yoke that Jesus invites us to take upon ourselves a yoke of slavery? (*choose one*):

- A. Yes
 B. No

2. When you put your hand to the plow, or when you take on Jesus' yoke, is it God's will that you do so: (*choose one*)

- A. As an act of one who is forced to?, or
 B. As the act of a freedman?

3. Is this yoke a heavy burden?

A. Yes

B. No

II. Jesus is looking for more than just another slave, He is looking for a bride who will share in the same passion that He has. When we yoke ourselves together with Jesus, we become committed to Jesus Christ personally, and to the harvest.”

- According to the following scriptures, what hope is promised to those who work the harvest?

* **Scripture: I Corinthians 9:10:**

“Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the _____ plows and the thresher _____, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the _____.”

* **Scripture: II Timothy 2:6:**

“The _____ - _____ farmer should be the first to _____ a share of the crops.”

 : “Jesus said, ' My yoke is easy and my burden is _____ '. He's not wanting to put a big _____ on you. He's the strong one, He's the one bearing the weight of it. But what He's wanting us to learn is to move with Him, and to be _____ in the harvest with Him. To work side by side with Him, because He wants us to _____ the joy of the harvest with us.”

6. How To Mature:

 : “So, like the author of Hebrews says,

“...let us leave the _____ teachings about Christ,
and go on to _____.” (Hebrews 6:1a)

Let us join Jesus where He is-- let us allow the Lord to mature us.”

I. We cannot completely understand the mystery of how God makes us to grow.

* **Scripture: Colossians 2:19b**

“...the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews,
grows as God causes it to grow.”

II. We can take simple steps every day to begin to take on the attitudes and actions
consistent with mature love.

1. Mature love casts out fear.
2. Mature love sets us free from the obligation to gratify our own desires.
3. Mature love drives us to lay down our lives for our brothers.
4. Mature love drives us to do the will of God.

III. This is how we move from spiritual infant-hood to spiritual maturity-- from milk to meat:
by following the greatest commandment, identified by Jesus in Matthew 22.

* **Scripture: Matthew 22:37b-40:**

“‘Love the Lord your God with all your _____ and with all
your _____ and with all your _____.’
This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:
'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two
commandments.”

*📖 **Scripture John 14:15:**

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

*📖 **Scripture John 15:10:**

“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.”

*📖 **Scripture: I John 3:16-18:**

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his _____ for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material _____ and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the _____ of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with _____ or tongue but with _____ and in truth. ”

• **According to these scriptures, we:**

1. Love God by obeying his _____ .
 2. We love our neighbor by laying down our _____ for our brothers, which includes our _____ possessions.
-

📖 : “Let us allow the Lord to mature us. And all that means is when God asks you to do something, just do it. Don't worry about making yourself _____, or making yourself into a good Christian. Just take up your _____ every day and follow Him. Just ask, 'Okay God, what do you want me to do today?' And every day, He's going to have you investing more and more of _____ in other people. You're going to be joining Him where he is-- you're going to be doing the same kinds of things He does. And you're going to be enjoying an intimacy and an ecstasy that only a _____ Christian can enjoy.”

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Lesson 4: Are You A Child Or A Bride?: Moving From Milk To Meat

Lesson 4 Discussion Questions: Week 1

1. Introduction

- Read the following passage:

**“Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love.”
Ephesians 1:4 (AMP)**

1. What does it mean to you that you were chosen by God for Himself, before the foundation of the world? _____

- Read Mark 10:15

2. When we are chosen, and when we enter the kingdom, how do we start our relationship with God? _____

- Read 2 Corinthians 11:2

3. Ultimately, what kind of relationship has God chosen you for? _____

2. Coming of Age

- **Read Ezekiel 16:1-8**

1. When God started His relationship with His people, whom He portrays in this story as an abandoned baby girl, what was the nature of that relationship?

2. Later, when she was old enough for love, God said:

“I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you.”

What kind of covenant was He referring to? _____

3. So, what kind of relationship did God ultimately choose her for? _____

4. In the beginning, when she was a child, could this girl have conceived of the relationship that she would ultimately have with God? _____

Why not? _____

- **Read Colossians 1:13**

5. When God met the girl in **Ezekiel 16**, the first thing he had to do was rescue her. Why was that necessary? _____

6. When God met you, the first thing He had to do was rescue you. Why was that necessary?

- **Read the following scriptures:**

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Song of Solomon 1:5-6

Song of Solomon 4:7-10

7. According to the story in **Ezekiel 16**, how valuable was the girl in the world's estimation? _____

What about the bride in Song of Solomon ? Was she highly esteemed before she met the King?

8. According to **1 Corinthians 1:26-29**, how valuable were you in the world's estimation? _____

9. According to the same scripture, why does God choose people who are rejected, despised, weak and foolish in the eyes of the world to be His bride? _____

- **Read Ephesians 5:23-32:**

10. When God meets us where we are, as a child who needs to be rescued and cleaned up, does He leave us in that state? _____

11. According to **Ephesians 5:25-27** what was Christ's purpose in giving Himself (dying on the cross) for the church? What is His end-goal for us? _____

- **Read the following scriptures:**

John 3:28-30:

“You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.”

2 Corinthians 11:2:

“I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.”

I John 1:8-10:

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”

- **Romans 4:17b tells us that God is “...the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.”**

12. As children of God, are we ready for marriage to God? _____ .
 And yet, what does God call us in the scriptures above? _____
 _____ .

13. According to **I John 1:8-10**, are we currently without sin? _____ .
 And yet, how does God describe us in **2 Corinthians 11:2** and **Ephesians 5:26-27**? _____

 _____ .

14. When God looks at us in our current state, does He see only what we are right now? _____
 _____ .

15. Does He deny the reality of our current state in the scriptures? _____ .

16. Does He choose to call us only what we are, or what He knows we will become? _____
 _____ .

- **Read Ephesians 4:11-14**

17. According to verses 13-14, we will cease to be infants when:

1. We all reach _____ in the _____.
2. We all reach unity in the _____ of the Son of God.
3. We become mature, attaining to the _____
of the _____ of Christ.

So we see in Scripture that God is moving us from infant-hood to maturity, for the purpose of coming into a husband-wife relationship with Him. In next week's discussion, we begin to explore what it means on a practical level to mature in Christ: what that process looks like, and how it happens. See you then!

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Lesson 4: Are You A Child Or A Bride?: Moving From Milk To Meat

Lesson 4 Discussion Questions: Week 2

3. Moving From Milk

- Read the following scriptures:

I Corinthians 3:1-2

Hebrews 5:11-14

Hebrews 6:1-3

1. What do spiritual infants feed on? _____.
2. Can you give solid food to spiritual infants? _____.
3. What is the reason for this? (**I Corinthians 3:2**) _____.

- According to **I Corinthians 3:1**, spiritual infants are (choose one):

- A. Spiritual, or
- B. Worldly

4. Whose needs does an infant concern himself with? _____.
5. Whose spiritual needs does a spiritual infant concern himself with? _____.

- **Read Hebrews 6:1-3**

6. In a word, what kind of teachings cater to the needs of the spiritually immature? _____

- Remember, **infants** are concerned with **being ministered to**. They need answers to questions like:

1. How do *I* get saved, how do *I* get to heaven?

2. How do *I* avoid the punishment (hell)?

3. How do *I* get *my* healing?

- This is why they need to be given milk-- elementary teachings about Christ which satisfy these questions. These are the foundational teachings mentioned in **Hebrews 6:1-2**, which include:

1. Repentance from acts that lead to _____,

2. _____ in God,

3. Instruction about _____,

4. The _____ on of hands,

5. The _____ from the dead, and

6. Eternal _____.

- **Read Hebrews 5:13-14**

7. According to this passage, if a person lives on these elementary teachings, which teaching are they unfamiliar with? _____

Why? _____

8. When you engage in spiritual activities (reading the Bible, praying, interacting with other Christians, etc.), do you find that your focus is on meeting your own needs — either spiritual or physical-- or on meeting the needs of others? _____

4. Solid Food

- **Read these translations of Hebrews 5:14:**

“But solid food is for the mature, whose perceptions are trained by practice to discern both good and evil.” (NET version)

“Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.” (NLT version)

“But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (NASB version)

1. Who is solid food for? _____.

2. According to this verse, what has a mature Christian been trained to do? _____
_____.

3. Also according to this verse, how does a mature Christian get this training? _____

_____.

- **Read the following scripture:**

Ephesians 4:15 (NASB):

“...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.”

4. When we grow up spiritually, who are we to be like? Who is our example of spiritual maturity? _____

_____.

- **Read the following passage:**

“Meanwhile his disciples urged him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about.' Then his disciples said to each other, 'Could someone have brought him food?' 'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, “Four months more and then the harvest”? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” (John 4:31-35)

5. We know that solid food is for the mature, and that Jesus is our example of spiritual maturity. According to this passage, what is the solid food that satisfies Jesus? _____

_____.

• **Read Hebrews 5:1-3, 7-10**

6. When Jesus takes on the responsibilities of a high priest, whose need is He ministering to? _____

_____.

7. When Jesus submitted Himself to God's will, learning obedience to God through what He suffered, was He giving much consideration to His own fleshly needs? _____

_____.

Whose need, whose desire, was He focused upon satisfying? _____

_____.

8. Understanding this, why did the author of Hebrews go on to indicate in **Hebrews 5:11** that though there was much more he wanted to say to them about this, they were not yet ready for it? _____

_____.

_____.

_____.

• **Read the following scriptures:**

John 4:34-35

Matthew 13:36-39

9. Jesus says He has an appetite to do God's will and to finish His work. According to **John 4:35**, what is that work specifically? _____

_____.

10. According to this passage in **Matthew**, what is the good seed, or the wheat? _____

_____.

What is the harvest? _____

_____.

_____.

• **Read Matthew 9:35-38**

11. How does Jesus describe the crowds of people that He and disciples were ministering to? _____

How does He feel about these sheep? _____

12. According to **verse 38**, what did Jesus see when He looked at this sea of faces? _____

• **This passage identifies two critical needs in God's kingdom:**

I. The sheep are in need of a _____.

II. The Lord of the harvest is in need of _____ to send out into the harvest field.

13. When you join Jesus in working the harvest, investing yourself in that work with reverent submission to God, whose needs are you ministering to? _____

14. When you minister to God's needs, are you relating to him as a child, or as a bride? _____

Which is the more intimate relationship? _____

Do you have an appetite for that kind of relationship with God? _____

Would you be willing to lay down your childish needs in order to have this need— this intimate fellowship with God— satisfied? _____

Would the food that satisfies Jesus be enough to satisfy you? _____

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Lesson 4 Discussion Questions: Week 3

5. Joining Jesus

- Read the following scriptures:

I John 4:18 (AMP):

“There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection].”

I John 2:5a (AMP):

“But he who keeps (treasures) His Word [who bears in mind His precepts, who observes His message in its entirety], truly in him has the love of and for God been perfected (completed, reached maturity)...”

1. According to these scriptures, what kind of love does Jesus have? _____
_____.

2. Looking at **John 2:5**, what does God plan to do to our love? _____

_____.

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-
- **Question:** What drives Jesus to work the harvest for His Father?
(choose one):

- A. Fear of punishment,
 - B. His desire to gratify Himself, **or**
 - C. His own desire (appetite) to do His
Father's will, and to take care of the sheep.
-
-

3. Does Jesus work the harvest as a slave, or as a son? _____

What's the difference? _____

- **Read the following scriptures:**

Matthew 11:29:

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Luke 9:62:

“Jesus replied, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'”

Galatians 5:1:

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

Matthew 11:30:

“For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

-
- **According to these scriptures:**

I. Is the yoke that Jesus invites us to take upon ourselves a yoke of slavery? (***choose one***):

- A. Yes
- B. No

II. When you put your hand to the plow, or when you take on Jesus' yoke, is it God's will that you do so: (***choose one***)

- A. As an act of one who is forced to?, or
- B. As the act of a freedman?

III. Is this yoke a heavy burden?

- A. Yes
 - B. No
-

- **Read the following scriptures:**

I Corinthians 9:10

II Timothy 2:6

Luke 12:34

4. What hope is promised to those who work the harvest? _____

5. When you work the harvest, who are you investing yourself in? _____

6. According to **Luke 12:34**, what does this do to your heart? _____

7. When you invest yourself in Jesus, and the things that He is passionate about, how does that affect your relationship with Him? _____

6. How To Mature

- **Read the following scriptures:**

I Corinthians 3:6-8 (NASB):

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.”

Psalms 139:13:

“For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.”

Colossians 2:19b:

“...the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews,
grows as God causes it to grow.”

1. Who makes things to grow? _____.
2. Can we completely understand the mystery of how God causes us to grow and mature in our love? _____
_____.
3. Do we have the power to make ourselves grow? _____.

- **Read the following scriptures:**

II Corinthians 10:4-5

Philippians 2:1-5

4. Do we have the power to make a choice to take on attitudes and actions consistent with mature love? _____
_____.

5. Give some examples of attitudes/ actions in your own life that you need to adjust, in order to make them obedient to the knowledge of Christ's character we are given in **Philippians 2**. _____

_____.

- **Look at Section 6/ II of your outline.**

- I. Mature love casts out _____.
 - II. Mature love sets us free from the obligation to _____ our own desires.
 - III. Mature love drives us to lay down our _____ for our brothers.
 - IV. Mature love drives us to do the _____ of God.
-
-

- **Read the Following scriptures:**

John 14:15:

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

John 15:10:

“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.”

I John 3:16-18:

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”

- **According to these scriptures, we:**

- A. Love God by obeying his _____, and
- B. Love our neighbor by laying down our _____ for our brothers, which includes our _____ possessions.

-
-
- **This is how** we move from spiritual infant-hood to spiritual maturity-- from milk to meat: by following the greatest commandment, identified by Jesus in Matthew 22.

Matthew 22:37b-40:

“Love the Lord your God with all your _____ and with all your _____ and with all your _____.’
This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:
‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

When we do this, God will be faithful to **fulfill His promise** to transform us from children into a pure and spotless bride, ready for a mature relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

Home Bible Groups Bible Study

From Fear To Faith: The Journey To The Cross

Lesson 4: Are You A Child Or A Bride?: Moving From Milk To Meat

Weekly Challenge: Part One

Psalm 119:11: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

In order to move from milk to meat, we understand that our love must mature, until it is like God's love. Then we will be able to relate to Him as more than a child-- we will be able to relate to him as a bride! This challenge will equip you to test your love every day by familiarizing yourself with the qualities of God's love, cementing them in your mind and memory.

- **!!!CHALLENGE!!!**

Your challenge is to **memorize** the entire “Love Chapter” over the next two weeks : **I Corinthians 13!** The schedule below will allow you to memorize the **first seven verses** this week, and then **verses 8-13 next week**. However, if you're ambitious, don't hesitate to memorize it more quickly if you want to!

Check off each day as you **memorize** the scheduled verses.

- Sunday:**
I Corinthians 13:1
- Monday:**
I Corinthians 13:1-2
- Tuesday:**
I Corinthians 13:1-3
- Wednesday:**
I Corinthians 13:1-4
- Thursday:**
I Corinthians 13:1-5
- Friday:**
I Corinthians 13:1-6
- Saturday:**
I Corinthians 13:1-7

Home Bible Groups Bible Study

From Fear To Faith: The Journey To The Cross

Lesson 4: Are You A Child Or A Bride?: Moving From Milk To Meat

Weekly Challenge: Part Two

Psalm 119:11: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

In order to move from milk to meat, we understand that our love must mature, until it is like God's love. Then we will be able to relate to Him as more than a child-- we will be able to relate to him as a bride! This challenge will equip you to test your love every day by familiarizing yourself with the qualities of God's love, cementing them in your mind and memory.

- **!!!CHALLENGE!!!**

Your challenge this week is to **memorize** the rest of the “Love Chapter”: **I Corinthians 13!**

If you fell behind last week, no sweat! Just double up on the number of verses you memorize each day this week.

Check off each day as you **memorize** the scheduled verses.

Sunday:
I Corinthians 13:1-8

Monday:
I Corinthians 13:1-9

Tuesday:
I Corinthians 13:1-10

Wednesday:
I Corinthians 13:1-11

Thursday:
I Corinthians 13:1-12

Friday:
I Corinthians 13:1-13

Saturday:
I Corinthians 13:1-13